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# Message Text

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16/15
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 L-02 OMB-01 DEAE-00 CIAE-00

INR-05 IO-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SY-04 TRSE-00

USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-02 MMS-01 SS-15 AID-05 DODE-00

AGR-05 /075 W
---------- 049452
R 080206Z NOV 74
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2792
INFO US MISSION GENEVA 212
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 12155

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y ADDEE ADDED

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR
SUBJ: U.S. NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTIVITES

REF: A) STATE 233134; B) STATE 241812

1. WE APPRECIATE RECEIVING REF A WHICH TELLS US OF THE PRESIDENT'S INTEREST IN NARCOTICS CONTROL WHILE ASKING FOR A STATUS REPORT AND OUR SUGGESTIONS, AS WELL AS REF B DESCRIBING THE WASHINGTON ORGANIZATION FOR THE NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM. COMBINED THEY GIVE US AN ENCOURAGING OVERVIEW OF WASHINGTON INTEREST IN, AND ORGANIZATION FOR, NARCOTICS CONTROL.

2. WE ARE PLEASED TO REPORT THAT HERE IN HONG KONG
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SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IS BEING MADE TO CONTROL AND REDUCE

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DRUG ABUSE. THE PROBLEM IS GREAT BECAUSE, WITH SOME
100,000 ADDICTS, HONG KONG HAS ONE OF THE LARGEST ADDICT
POPULATIONS IN THE WORLD. THIS LARGE ADDICT POPULATION
PROVIDES AN IMPORTANT MARKET FOR THE NARCOTICS PRODUCED
IN SOUTHEAST ASIA'S "GOLDEN TRIANGLE." BECAUSE OF THE
READY AVAILABILITY AND THE AMOUNT OF NARCOTICS REQUIRED
IN HONG KONG BY HONG KONG ADDICTS, THERE IS THE CON-
TINUING POSSIBILITY OF DIVERSION OF SOME OF THE SUPPLY
TO THE U.S. MARKET.

3. IN RECENT MONTHS THE HONG KONG AUTHORITIES HAVE HAD
INCREASING SUCCESS IN INTERDICTING NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING
AND PROCESSING. MUCH OF THE SUCCESS IN SEIZING DRUG SHIP-
MENTS IS CORRECTLY ATTRIBUTED TO THE GREATER REGIONAL
COOPERATION WHICH HONG KONG AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN URGING.
THE SEIZURE SEVERAL WEEKS AGO OF A TON OF NEWLY ARRIVED
OPIUM IS TYPICAL OF THE TREND IN THAT IT RESULTED FROM
THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF THE HONG KONG POLICE WITH THE
POLICE AUTHORITIES OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRY OF
ORIGIN WHERE A HONG KONG POLICEMAN IS PROVIDING LIAISON.
INTERDICTION OF IMPORTS OF ACETIC ANHYDRIDE (USED IN
PROCESSING HEROIN) IS THE RESULT OF COOPERATION BETWEEN
HONG KONG AND JAPAN. BETTER ORGANIZED POLICE WORK, IN
WHICH OUR DEA OFFICE HERE CLOSELY COOPERATES, HAS CAUSED
THE RATE OF SEIZURES TO GO UP AS HAS THE LOCAL PRICE OF
NARCOTICS. EVEN THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PRESS IN HONG KONG
IS, FOR THE FIRST TIME, SHOWING AN INTEREST IN POLICE
SUCCESSES IN THE WAR AGAINST DRUG PEDDLERS. (SEPTEL)

4. AT THE SAME TIME, HONG KONG IS SEEKING TO DEVELOP A
BALANCED APPROACH TO THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM THROUGH AN
INCREASE IN TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION FACILITIES.
THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT'S NARCOTICS COMMISSIONER, NORMAN
ROLPH, IS ASKING APPROVAL FOR A PROGRAM WHICH IN FIVE YEARS'
TIME WILL BE ABLE TO HANDLE 35,000 NARCOTICS PATIENTS A
YEAR. THE COMMISSIONER SAYS THAT THE PROGRAM IS WITHIN
BUDGETARY CAPABILITIES. TO ASSIST IN ESTABLISHING THE
PROGRAM, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS EMPLOYING THE
ADVISORY SERVICES OF DR. ROBERT NEWMAN, THE EXPERIENCED
FORMER DIRECTOR OF NEW YORK CITY'S SUCCESSFUL METHADONE
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TREATMENT PROGRAM.

5. IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS NOT
CURRENTLY SEEKING DIRECT USG ASSISTANCE BEYOND THAT
ALREADY PROVIDED BY THE DEA OFFICE IN COOPERATIVE ENDORCE-
MENT EFFORTS. AT SOME LATER DATE, HONG KONG MAY WISH TO
TRAIN TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION PERSONNEL IN THE UNITED
STATES, BUT WE UNDERSTAND THAT THIS WOULD PROBABLY NOT

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INVOLVE U.S. FUNDING.

6. ON THE OTHER HAND, HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES WILL BE SEEKING CONTINUED U.S. SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF BROADER AND MORE EFFECTIVE REGIONAL NARCOTICS PROGRAMS. HONG KONG, THE UK AND THE U.S. HAVE ALREADY INITIATED A SERIES OF TRILATERAL MEETINGS WHICH HAVE HELPED ESTABLISH A CLOSER WORKING RELATIONSHIP, BUT MR. ROLPH WOULD LIKE TO SUPPLEMENT THIS WITH A LARGER FORUM. IN CONTACTS WITH THE UN COMMISSIONER AND IN A LETTER TO MR. CUSACK OF DEA THE HONG KONG NARCOTICS COMMISSIONER HAS SUGGESTED THAT SENIOR OFFICIALS OF INVOLVED SEA NATIONS MEET WITHOUT COMMITMENT TO REEXAMINE THE POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES TO CONTROL OF OPIUM PRODUCTION IN THE "GOLDEN TRIANGLE." HE SUGGESTS THAT THE CURRENT PROGRAM OF CROP SUBSTITUTION, A PROGRAM WHICH HE CHARACTERIZES AS EXPENSIVE AND UNWORK-ABLE IN TURKEY, NEEDS TO BE REEXAMINED AND ALTERNATIVE METHODS EXPLORED FOR POSSIBLE REGIONAL APPLICATION. AT ANY RATE, MR. ROLPH WANTS TO DISCUSS THIS WITH AMBASSADOR VANCE DURING HIS VISIT TO HONG KONG LATER THIS MONTH.

7. WE, TOGETHER WITH OTHER POSTS IN THE REGION, WILL BE EXAMINING REGIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL PROBLEMS AT THE REGIONAL MEETING IN RANGOON STARTING ON THE 20TH OF THIS MONTH. WE HAVE SUGGESTED THAT THE MEETING'S AGENDA INCLUDE REEXAMINATION OF THE NATURE OF THE U.S. INTEREST INVOLVED IN OUR CONSIDERABLE REGIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. WE NEED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE EXTENT TO WHICH SOUTHEAST ASIA'S PRODUCTION AND TRAFFICKING IN NARCOTICS ACTUALLY RESULTS IN THE SUPPLY OF NARCOTICS TO THE UNITED STATES. WHEN WE KNOW THIS, WE CAN BETTER DESIGN A PROGRAM WHICH TAILORS THE APPLICATION OF LIMITED U.S. RESOURCES TO ACTUAL U.S. INTERESTS.
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